

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 01177 01 OF 02 131123Z

12

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 AGR-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /081 W

----- 068931

R 130834Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2429

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 1177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SPOP, TU

SUBJ: IMPLICATIONS ON WORLDWIDE POPULATION GROWTH FOR US INTERESTS-
TURKEY.

REF: 75 STATE 301427

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE A NET POPULATION GROWTH RATE OF BETWEEN 2.4 AND 2.7 PERCENT PER YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY HAS NO (REPEAT NO) PRESENT POLICY OF ENCOURAGING POPULATION LIMITATION. POLITICAL CONDITIONS, WITH A PRECARIOUS FOUR-PARTY COALITION GOVERNMENT RUNNING THE COUNTRY, PRECLUDE THE ADOPTION OF SUCH A NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IN FACT, TWO SMALL BUT KEY PARTNERS IN THE COALITION WOULD REACT VERY STRONGLY TO ANY PROPOSALS TO LIMIT THE POPULATION AND TO ADOPT FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, THERE ARE A FEW ONGOING, SMALL SCALE PROGRAMS IN LOW KEY AND AT THE SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL IN WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICIALS ARE PARTICIPATING. ONE SUCH GOVERNMENT PROGRAM IN THE DEMOGRAPHIC FIELD IS AID/W SUPPORTED.
END SUMMARY.

2. RESPONSES TO PARA 4 (A-G) OF REFTEL FOLLOW. MEMBERS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 01177 01 OF 02 131123Z

OF THE COUNTRY TEAM HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ANALYSIS.

A. NATIONAL POLICY: TURKEY DOES NOT (REPEAT NOT) HAVE ANY NATIONAL POLICY OF ENCOURAGING FAMILY LIMITATION, NOR DOES THE ADOPTION OF SUCH A POLICY IN THE NEAR FUTURE SEEM POSSIBLE. NEVERTHELESS, IT HAS RELATIVELY LIBERAL LEGISLATION ON FAMILY PLANNING PERMITTING FAMILIES TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN SIZE, AND THE USE OF CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES. THE PRESENT PRIME MINISTER, SULEYMAN DEMIREL, WAS ALSO PRIME MINISTER WHEN THIS LEGISLATION WAS ADOPTED IN THE MID-1960S. HOWEVER, FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS HE HAS NEVER PURSUED A VIGOROUS NATIONAL POLICY IN THIS FIELD. THE SEVERAL SUBSEQUENT GOVERNMENTS WERE GENERALLY MUCH TOO WEAK, AND NOT (REPEAT NO) SUFFICIENTLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SUBJECT, TO THINK IN TERMS OF LEADERSHIP IN POPULATION POLICY MATTERS. TWO OF THE PARTIES IN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, MOREOVER, STRONGLY OPPOSE LIMITING THE SIZE OF THE FAMILY OR OF THE NATIONAL POPULATION. THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY IS MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALIST AND OPPOSES FAMILY PLANNING, EVEN THOUGH THE KORAN AND MUSLIM DOCTRINE MAKE NO (REPEAT NO) SUCH PROHIBITION. THE SECOND OF THE COALITION PARTIES WHICH OPPOSES POPULATION LIMITATION FOR TURKEY IS THE NATIONAL ACTION PARTY (NAP-NEO-FASCIST), WHICH IN ITS POLITICAL PROGRAM CALLS FOR A POPULATION OF 100 MILLION TURKS.

IN A QUIET WAY WITHOUT ANY FANFARE, UNDERSECRETARY YASAR IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN PROMOTING FAMILY PLANNING AND LIMITATION OF FAMILY SIZE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS ALMOST SOLELY BY THE USE OF THE LOOP, THE MAIN CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICE IN TURKEY. ALSO, FAMILY PLANNING IS PROBABLY MORE PREVALENT THAN COMMONLY BELIEVED, PARTICULARLY IN URBAN AREAS AND IN THE MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASSES. ABORTION AS A MEANS OF FAMILY LIMITATION IS READILY AVAILABLE (PERHAPS NOT LEGALLY BUT IN PRACTICE) FROM THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AT A RELATIVELY REASONABLE PRICE.

B. COST EFFECTIVENESS: IN 30 PROVINCES OF EASTERN TURKEY, THE SO-CALLED "SOCIALIZED" PROVINCES WHERE THE NET POPULATION GROWTH RATE IS BELIEVED TO BE THE HIGHEST, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANKARA 01177 01 OF 02 131123Z

A MINIMAL, INTERGRATED HEALTH SERVICE PROGRAM FOR THE ENTIRE POPULATION EXISTS AT A VERY HIGH COST TO THE GOVERNMENT. FAMILY PLANNING IS INCLUDED IN THE OVERALL HEALTH PROGRAM, BUT VERY LITTLE IS REALLY DONE; FEW CONTRACEPTIVES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE REGION AND THE HEALTH PERSONNEL INVOLVED APPEAR TO BE RELUCTANT TO PROMOTE THE CONCEPT OF FAMILY PLANNING AND THE USE OF CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES. ALTHOUGH OUR BILATERAL AID PROGRAM IN TURKEY HAS IN EFFECT BEEN

TERMINATED, AID/W SUPPORTS A DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECT, FUNDED FROM WASHINGTON, BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE STATE INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS. THIS IS A PILOT PROJECT WHICH MAY LEAD TO A BREAK-THROUGH IN A NEW METHODOLOGY IN MORE ACCURATE AND FASTER POPULATION ENUMERATION.

C. IMPACT ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: POPULATION GROWTH IN TURKEY IS CURRENTLY IN THE RANGE OF 2.4 TO 2.7 PERCENT PER ANNUM, WITH SOME DOUBT REGARDING THE ACCURACY OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS. PER CAPITA INCOMES ARE RELATIVELY LOW, CURRENTLY ABOUT \$900 PER YEAR. UNEMPLOYMENT IS CHRONICALLY HIGH (SEE BELOW). AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY HAS THROUGH A SERIES OF FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS MADE MAJOR EFFORTS TO EXPAND AND DIVERSIFY THE ECONOMY, ESTABLISH NEW INDUSTRIES, CREATE JOBS AND RAISE INCOMES. IT HAD HAD CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN THIS EFFORT. OVER THE PAST DOZEN YEARS, GNP HAS INCREASED ON THE AVERAGE, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL DATA, BY BETTER THAN SIX PERCENT ANNUALLY. THERE IS NO MEASURE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RELATIVELY HIGH POPULATION GROWTH OVER THIS PERIOD MAY HAVE INHIBITED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BY DIVERTING RESOURCES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE SO AS TO CARE FOR THE EXPANDING POPULATION (SEE D BELOW). IN FACT, IT CAN BE ARGUED THAT THE TURKISH SURPLUS MANPOWER NOW WORKING ABROAD IS TEMPORARILY AT LEAST QUITE A HELP THROUGH ITS REMITTANCES WHICH RAISE INCOMES IN TURKEY AND PROVIDE FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT. TURKEY'S TRADE DEFICIT IN 1975 AMOUNTED TO A LITTLE OVER \$3.0 BILLION, AND THIS WAS PARTIALLY OFFSET BY \$1.3 BILLION IN WORKER REMITTANCES. TURKEY'S IMPORTS ARE LARGELY CONCENTRATED ON ITEMS NEEDED FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, FOR PROCESSING IN DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES, AND ALSO FOR SUPPORT OF ITS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION (PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS). FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ANKARA 01177 01 OF 02 131123Z

THE LAST TWO YEARS, MOREOVER, TURKEY'S HARVESTS WERE ADEQUATE FOR ITS FOOD STUFF NEEDS, AND PERMITTED SOME STORAGE AS WELL. IN FACT, TURKEY EXPORTS FOOD PRODUCTS AND PROCESSED AGRICULTURAL GOODS.

D. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: TURKEY DOES FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ABSORB ALL ITS MANPOWER INTO PRODUCTIVE ASPECTS OF ITS ECONOMY. THE STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION IS PROJECTING AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 13 PERCENT FOR 1976, BUT THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT EVEN USING TURKISH MEASUREMENT STANDARDS THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS MORE NEARLY SOME 15-17 PERCENT. MEASURED BY US STANDARDS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS SOMEWHAT HIGHER, CONSIDERING THE MASS OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT AND DISGUISED UNEMPLOYMENT THAT EXISTS BOTH IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS. SOMEWHAT OVER 400,000

PERSONS ENTER THE LABOR MARKET EACH YEAR, BUT HALF OR POSSIBLY MORE DO NOT REALLY FIND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT. EMIGRATION OF WORKERS TO WESTERN EUROPE HAS ALLEVIATED THE SITUATION DURING RECENT YEARS. HOWEVER, DURING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 01177 02 OF 02 131011Z

12

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 AGR-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /081 W

----- 067766

R 130834Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2430

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 1177

THE PAST TWO YEARS ONLY 25,000 PERSONS IN ALL WERE ABLE TO FIND WORK ABROAD, COMPARED TO ABOUT 80,000 TO 100,000 PER YEAR ON THE AVERAGE FOR THE FIVE PRIOR YEARS. IN ADDITION, SOME 50,000 TO 100,000 TURKISH WORKERS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE. THESE FACTORS ARE INCREASING PRESSURES DOMESTICALLY FOR THE CREATION OF MORE AND MORE JOBS.

ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF THE WORKING POPULATION IS ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE, WHERE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DISGUISED UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT; THIS SITUATION PROVIDES AN AVAILABLE AND STEADY FLOW OF MIGRANTS TO URBAN AREAS. AS IMPROVED CULTIVATION CONTINUES TO BE INTRODUCED, PARTICULARLY WITH THE INCREASED USE OF TRACTORS, THE SURPLUS WILL BUILD UP EVEN MORE. THUS, THERE IS A GROWING PRESSURE ON THE URBAN AREAS. WHILE DETAILED DATA ARE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN, THE NET URBAN POPULATION GROWTH RATE FOR THE MAJOR TURKISH CITIES IS BELIEVED TO BE ABOUT 7.0 PERCENT (1.5 PERCENT FROM LOCAL ADDITION, AND 5.5 PERCENT

FROM RURAL MIGRATION). THIS HAS PUT A TREMENDOUS LOAD ON THE CITIES FOR SERVICES OF ALL KINDS. IT IS SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF THE ISTANBUL AND ANKARA AREAS AND ABOUT 35 PERCENT OF IZMIR ARE MADE UP OF SQUATTER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 01177 02 OF 02 131011Z

SETTLEMENTS (OF MINIMAL HOUSING STANDARDS). WITHIN THE PAST FIVE YEARS THERE WAS A CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN ISTANBUL AND ONE IN IZMIR ATTRIBUTED TO HEALTH AND SANITATION FACTORS IN THESE SQUATTER VILLAGES. IN GENERAL, THERE IS ALMOST ALWAYS A COUNTRY-WIDE WATER SHORTAGE PROBLEM, COMPOUNDED NOW IN THE MAJOR CITIES. ADDITIONALLY, CITIES ARE HARD PRESSED TO PROVIDE UTILITIES IN ADEQUATE AMOUNTS, AND SERVICES AS WELL. DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS THE WATER SUPPLY HAS BEEN ADEQUATE, HOWEVER, AS THE RESULT OF INCREASED RAINFALL. WATER PROBLEMS WILL RETURN AGAIN IN DRIER YEARS.

E. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AS YET FROM TURKEY'S POPULATION GROWTH; ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OF OVERCROPPING, LAND EROSION, AND OVERGRAZING, HAVE BEEN AND ARE ENDEMIC AND ARE NOT DIRECTLY LINKED TO POPULATION PRESSURES. TURKEY'S FORESTS WERE DENUED GENERATIONS AGO. THE SHARPLY INCREASED USE OF LIGNITE COAL FOR HEATING AND THE MUCH GREATER NUMBER OF CARS IN ANKARA HAVE MADE IT ONE OF THE WORST SMOG-RIDDEN CITIES IN THE WORLD.

F. STRATEGIC AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES: FOR GEO-POLITICAL REASONS OF ILLING WHAT WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A POPULATION VACUUM IN CERTAIN PORTIONS OF EASTERN TURKEY, THE TURKISH MILITARY IN THE PAST DESIRED A MUCH LARGER POPULATION THERE. THIS ARGUMENT HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HOWEVER, PAN-TURANISTS AND OTHER ADVOCATES OF A MUCH LARGER TURKEY, STILL THINK IN TERMS OF A LARGER INDIGENOUS POPULATION. OCCASIONALLY, ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TOWARD ETHNIC GROUPS OF TURKISH ORIGIN IN OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS IRAN AND THE SOVIET UNION. THESE EXPANSIONIST GROUPS AND THE NAP DO NOT HAVE MUCH INFLUENCE; YET, THERE IS A CERTAIN APPEAL TO TURKISH PRIDE IN THEIR PROPAGANDA.

THERE HAS BEEN SOME RESURGENCE OF LAWLESSNESS DURING THE PAST YEAR MAINLY ASSOCIATED WITH STUDENTS AT VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES. MOST OF IT, IT IS BELIEVED, RESULTS FROM POLITICAL AGITATION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE ON BOTH EXTREMES OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM AND IT IS NOT (REPEAT NOT) RELATED TO POPULATION PRESSURES. UNTIL NOW THERE HAS BEEN NO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANKARA 01177 02 OF 02 131011Z

(REPEAT NO) UNUSUAL POLITICAL RESTLESSNESS OR LAWLESSNESS AMONG THE UNEMPLOYED. NOR CAN IT BE SAID THAT THE INCREASED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED IN THE URBAN AREAS ARE AS YET CREATING ANY SPECIAL PROBLEM. GREATER CONCENTRATION OF THE UNEMPLOYED IN URBAN AREAS MAY SEVERAL YEARS FROM NOW, HOWEVER, CAUSE INCREASED POLITICAL PROBLEMS, SHOULD THEY BECOME ORGANIZED AND SUBJECT TO PROPAGANDA FROM EXTREMISTS.

THUS FAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO (REPEAT NO) APPARENT CORRELATION BETWEEN EXTREMISM AND THE POPULATION GROWTH RATE OR ANY TENDENCY TOWARDS AUTHORITARIANISM. HOWEVER, TO A CERTAIN DEGREE, THESE CONCEPTS HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED EVEN AFTER THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN TURKISH REPUBLIC IN 1923. DURING THE PAST 15 YEARS, DESPITE MAINFOLD PROBLEMS, TURKEY HAS BEEN STRUGGLING TO DEVELOP A VIABLE POLITICAL SYSTEM, AND HAS MANAGED TO PRESERVE ITS DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

G. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:
IN LOW KEY, AND IN A SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL APPROACH TURKEY'S EFFORTS IN POPULATION LIMITATION COULD BE EXPANDED THROUGH COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. FUNDING AND LEADERSHIP WOULD MOST PROBABLY HAVE TO COME FROM THESE ORGANIZATIONS. SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS, MODEST IN NATURE, ALREADY EXIST, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CAN BE FOUND ON DUTY AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. AT PRESENT THERE IS LITTLE THAT THE US CAN DO DIRECTLY. FOR THE US GOVERNMENT TO BECOME DIRECTLY AND PROMINENTLY INVOLVED IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION LIMITATION IN TURKEY WOULD MOST LIKELY GIVE RISE TO CONSIDERABLE ADVERSE CRITICISM AND AS A RESULT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.
NYREN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, POPULATION, FAMILY PLANNING, POPULATION GROWTH RATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA01177
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760055-0492
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760253/aaaabtwx.tel
Line Count: 313
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 301427
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPLICATIONS ON WORLDWIDE POPULATION GROWTH FOR US INTERESTS- TURKEY.
TAGS: SPOP, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006